

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1-505. (Cancelled)

506. (Currently Amended) A method for processing instructions in a central processing unit (CPU) capable of executing instructions of a plurality of instruction sets, including a stack-based and a register-based instruction set, the method, comprising:

maintaining data for register-based instructions from the register-based instruction set and an operand stack for operands associated with stack-based instructions from the stack-based instruction set in a first register file, wherein at least some of the operands are moved between the register file and memory via at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism;

maintaining an indication of a depth of the operand stack; and

~~executing the stack-based instructions and register-based instructions in an execution unit, including generating an exception in respect of selected stack-based instructions.~~

processing the register-based instructions including generating a first output, and processing the first output in an execution unit using the data from the first register file;
and

processing the stack-based instructions including generating a second output, and processing the second output in the execution unit using the operands from the first register file; and generating exceptions in respect of selected stack-based instructions.

507. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, further comprising storing variables associated with the stack-based instructions in a second register file.

508. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 507, further comprising storing virtual machine registers in a third register file.

509. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 508, wherein the first, second, and third register files are the same register file.

510. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein the overflow mechanism generates an overflow indication for the stack-based operands.

511. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein the underflow mechanism generates an underflow indication for the stack-based operands.

512. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 509, wherein the operand stack is maintained in a first portion of the register file, and variables associated with the stack-based instructions are maintained in a second portion of the register file.

513. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, further comprising generating a branch taken indication in respect of a selected stack-based branch instruction.

514. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 513, further comprising flushing at least part of a pipeline associated with the processing of the selected stack-based instructions if the branch taken indication is generated.

515. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein a memory arbiter is used to facilitate at least one of a loading and a storing of operands between the register file and the memory via the at least one of the overflow and underflow mechanism.

516. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein at least one of the operands is moved between the register file and the memory as a result of executing at least one of a store and load operation due to at least one of the overflow and underflow indication.

517. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 515 or claim 516, wherein the memory is a data cache.

518. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 513, wherein the selected stack-based branch instruction is selected from the group consisting of ifeq, ifne, iflt, ifge, ifgt, ifle, if_icmpeq, if_icmpne, if_icmplt, if_acmpge, if_cmpgt, if_icmple, if_acmpeq, if_acmpne, ifnull, ifnonnull, lcmp, fcmpl, fcmpg, dcmpl, and dcmpg.

519. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, further comprising further processing the selected stack-based instructions for which exceptions were generated using the register-based instruction set.

520. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 519, wherein the further processing occurs within a virtual machine.

521. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 519 or claim 520, further comprising reverting to processing the stack-based instructions after the further processing.

522. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein instructions of the stack-based instruction set include virtual machine_bytecodes.

523. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 516, wherein executing the load or the store operation is due to executing a load or a store instruction associated with the register-based instruction set.

524. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein a common program counter register is used for the plurality of instruction sets.

525. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein a program counter for each of the plurality of instruction sets is in at least one or more program counter registers.

526. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein instructions for the plurality of instruction sets are stored in a shared instruction cache.

527. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 524 or claim 525, wherein the program counter register is part of a register file for the CPU.

528. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, wherein the CPU maintains an indication of which registers in the register file contain operands associated with the stack-based instructions.

529. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 528, wherein at least a top two operands of the operand stack in the register file are referenced when executing the stack-based instructions.

530. (Currently Amended) A method for processing instructions in a central processing unit (CPU), the method comprising:

decoding instructions of a stack-based instruction set;

maintaining an operand stack for operands associated with the instructions of the stack-based instruction set in a register file including moving at least some

operands between the register file and memory via at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism;

decoding instructions of a register-based instruction set;

maintaining data associated with the instructions of the register-based instruction set in the register file;

sending an output of the decoding of the instructions of the stack and register-based instruction sets, to an execution unit; and

processing the output in the execution unit, including ~~generating~~ processing exceptions in respect of selected instructions of the stack-based instruction set ~~and processing the exceptions in a virtual machine.~~

531. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 530, further comprising setting at least one bit to indicate which instruction set to use for the processing.

532. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 531, wherein the processing of the exceptions is performed using the register-based instruction set.

533. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 531, wherein the at least one bit is set in respect of those instructions of the stack-based instruction set for which an exception is generated.

534. (Cancelled)

535. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 533, further comprising maintaining a program counter for the stack-based instruction set and a program counter for the register-based instruction set in the same register.

536. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 533, wherein a program counter for instructions of the stack-based and register-based instruction sets are in at least one or more registers.

537. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 530, wherein the output of decoding-instructions of the stack-based instruction set is sent to the execution unit via the second decode unit.

538. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 530, wherein a memory arbiter is used to facilitate the loading and storing of operands between the register file and memory via the at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism.

539. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 538, wherein the memory includes a data cache.

540. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

switching a processing system to an accelerator mode, wherein stack-based instructions are executed directly in hardware;

generating an exception in respect of a selected stack-based instruction while in the accelerator mode;

switching the processing system to a first native mode in which the exception is handled within a virtual machine by executing a register-based instruction; and

switching the processing system to a second native mode upon a further exception generated while in the first native mode, wherein in the second native mode the virtual machine is non-operative and handling of the further exception is by executing a register-based instruction.

541. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 540, wherein the stack-based instructions include virtual machine bytecodes.

542. (Cancelled)

543. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

processing instruction, including stack-based instructions and register-based instructions , in a CPU having an execution unit and a register file, wherein for said processing a common program counter is used for the-stack and register-based instructions, the common program counter being stored in a common register; and
generating a branch taken signal to facilitate the processing of selected stack-based and register-based instructions .

544. (Cancelled)

545. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 543, wherein the common program counter is in a register file for the CPU.

546. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 543, wherein the stack and register-based instructions are in a shared instruction cache.

547. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 543, wherein the selected instructions of the stack-based instructions are selected from the group consisting of ifeq, ifne, iflt, ifge, ifgt, ifle, if_icmpeq, if_icmpne, if_icmplt, if_acmpge, if_cmpgt, if_icmple, if_acmpeq, if_acmpne, ifnull, ifnonnull, lcmp, fcmpl, fcmpg, dcmpl, and dcmpg.

548. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 543, further comprising flushing at least part of a pipeline associated when processing the selected instructions.

549. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 543, further comprising maintaining operands in an operand stack for the stack-based instructions in a register file for the CPU.

550. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 549, wherein the operands are moved between the register file and memory via at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism.

551. (Currently Amended) In a processing system, comprising a central processing unit (CPU) having an execution unit and a register file, and being of capable of processing instructions of a plurality of instruction sets including a register-based instruction set and a stack-based instruction set, wherein an operand stack for operands associated with the stack-based instruction set is maintained in the register

file, and the operands are moved between the register file and memory due to at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism, and wherein the processing system, further comprises a first state in which the CPU processes instructions using the register-based instruction set without a virtual machine, a second state in which the CPU processes using the non-stack-based instruction set within a virtual machine, and a third state in which the CPU processes instructions using the stack-based instruction set within the virtual machine, a method of operating the CPU comprising:

- switching the processing system to the first state due to at least one of a reset command and a power-on condition;

- switching the CPU to the second state;

- processing instructions in the second state; and

- upon encountering an exception while processing the instructions in the second state, switching the CPU to the first state.

552. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 551, further comprising switching the CPU from the second state to the third state.

553. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 552, further comprising, upon receiving a reset command, switching the CPU from the third state to the first state.

554. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 552, further comprising, upon encountering an exception while processing instructions in the third state, switching the CPU from the third state to the second state.

555. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 552, wherein the switching to the third state is while in a virtual machine to execute the stack-based instruction set.

556. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 551, further comprising setting at least one bit to indicate to the CPU which instruction set to use.

557. (Amended) The method of claim ~~530~~ 534, claim 540, claim 543 or claim 551, wherein the stack-based instructions include virtual machine_byte codes.

558. (Cancelled)

559. (Previously Presented) A central processing unit (CPU), capable of executing a plurality of instruction sets comprising:

- an execution unit and associated register file, the execution unit to execute instructions of a plurality of instruction sets, including a stack-based and a register-based instruction set;

- a mechanism to maintain at least some data for the plurality of instruction sets in the register file including maintaining an operand stack for the stack-based instructions in the register file and an indication of the depth of the operand stack;

- a stack control mechanism that includes at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism, wherein at least some of the operands are moved between the register file and memory; and

- a mechanism to generate an exception in respect of selected stack-based instructions.

560. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, wherein the register file is a first register file, the central processing unit further comprising a second register file to store variables associated with the stack-based instructions.

561. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 560, further comprising a third register file to store virtual machine registers.

562. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 561, wherein the first, the second, and the third register files are the same register file.

563. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, wherein the overflow mechanism generates an overflow indication for the operand stack.

564. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 563, wherein the underflow mechanism generates an underflow indication for the operand stack.

565. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 562, wherein the operand stack is maintained in a first portion of the register file, and variables associated with the stack-based instructions are maintained in a second portion of the register file.

566. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, further comprising a mechanism to generate a branch taken indication in respect of a selected stack-based instruction.

567. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 566, further comprising a mechanism to flush at least part of a pipeline associated with the processing of the selected stack-based instruction, if the branch taken instruction is generated.

568. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, further comprising a memory arbiter to facilitate at least one of a loading and a storing of operands between the register file and the memory and via the stack control mechanism.

569. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, wherein the operands are moved between the register file and the memory as a result of executing at least one of a load and a store operation due to at least one of the overflow and underflow indication.

570. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, wherein the memory is a data cache.

571. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 566, wherein the selected stack-based instruction is selected from the group consisting of ifeq, ifne, iflt,

ifge, ifgt, ifle, if_icmpeq, if_icmpne, if_icmplt, if_acmpge, if_cmpgt, if_icmple, if_acmpeq, if_acmpne, ifnull, ifnonnull, lcmp, fcmpl, fcmpg, dcmpl, and dcmpg.

572. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, further comprising further processing the selected stack-based instructions for which exceptions were generated using the register-based instruction set.

573. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 572, wherein the further processing occurs within a virtual machine.

574. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 573, wherein the execution unit reverts to processing the stack-based instructions, after the further processing.

575. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, wherein instructions of the stack-based instruction set includes virtual machine bytecodes.

576. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 569, wherein executing at least one of the load and store operation is due to executing a load or a store instruction associated with the register-based instruction set.

577. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, further comprising a common program counter register for the plurality of instruction sets.

578. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, further comprising at least one program counter register to implement a program counter for each of the plurality of instruction sets.

579. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, wherein instructions for the plurality of instruction sets are stored in a shared instruction cache.

580. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claims 577 or claim 578, wherein at least some of the program counter is implemented within the register file.

581. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 559, further comprising a mechanism that maintains an indication of which registers in the register file contain operands associated with the stack-based instructions.

582. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 581, wherein at least a top two operands of the operand stack in the register file are referenced when executing the stack-based instructions.

583. (Currently Amended) A central processing unit (CPU) comprising:
a decoding mechanism to decode instructions of a plurality of instruction sets including a -stack-based instruction set and a register-based instruction set;
a register file, wherein an operand stack to store operands associated with instructions of the stack-based instruction set is maintained; and wherein data associated with instructions of the register-based instruction set is maintained;

at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism to cause the operands to -
be moved between the register file and memory; and

an execution unit that processes the output of the decoding of the instructions of
the stack-based instruction set, and the decoding of the instructions of the register-
based instruction set, including generating processing exceptions in respect of selected
instructions of the stack-based instruction set and ~~processing the exceptions using~~
within a virtual machine.

584. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 583, further
comprising a mechanism to set at least one bit to indicate which instruction set is to be
used for the processing.

585. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 583, wherein an
indication of the depth of the operand stack for the stack-based instruction set is
maintained.

586. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 584, wherein the at
least one bit is set in respect of those instructions of the stack-based instruction set for
which an exception is generated.

587. (Cancelled)

588. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 584, further comprising a register within which a program counter for the stack-based instruction set and a program counter for the register-based instruction set is maintained.

589. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 583, wherein the decode unit comprises a first subunit and a second subunit, and wherein the first subunit decodes instructions of the stack-based instruction set and sends an output of the decoding to the execution unit via the second subunit.

590. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 583, further comprising a memory arbiter that facilitates at least one of the loading or storing of operands between the register file and memory via at least one of an overflow and underflow mechanism.

591. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 590, wherein the memory includes a data cache.

592. (Currently Amended) A processing system, comprising:
an accelerator mode in which a central processing unit (CPU) of the processing system processes stack-based instructions directly in hardware;
a first native mode in which the processing system processes instructions using a non-stack-based instruction set within a virtual machine; and

a second native mode in which the processing system processes instructions using non-stack-based instructions, in which the virtual machine is non-operative, wherein

the processing system is switched to the accelerator mode to process stack-based instructions while in the accelerator mode, the processing of the stack-based instructions including generating an exception in respect of a selected stack-based instruction while in the accelerator mode, and switching to the first native mode in which the selected stack-based instruction for which the exception was generated is further processed within the virtual machine using the non-stack-based instruction set, and wherein if an exception is generated while in the first native mode, the processing system switches to the second native mode.

593. (Previously Presented) A central processing unit (CPU), comprising:

at least an execution unit and associated register file, the execution unit to process instructions of a register-based instruction set, and instructions of a stack-based instruction set, wherein at least one of an underflow and overflow mechanism is used to maintain an operand stack for instructions of the stack-based instruction set in the register file;

a register to store a common program counter for instructions of the stack-based and register-based instruction sets; and

a branch- taken indicator to facilitate the processing of selected instructions of the stack-based and register-based instruction sets.

594. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 593, further comprising a shared instruction cache to store instructions of the stack-based and register-based instruction sets.

595. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 593, wherein the selected instructions are selected from the group consisting of ifeq, ifne, iflt, ifge, ifgt, ifle, if_icmpeq, if_icmpne, if_icmplt, if_acmpge, if_cmpgt, if_icmple, if_acmpeq, if_acmpne, ifnull, ifnonnull, lcmp, fcmpl, fcmpg, dcmpl, and dcmpg.

596. (Previously Presented) The central processing unit of claim 593, further comprising a pipeline, at least a part of which is flushed during processing of the selected instructions, due to a branch-taken instruction generated by the branch-taken indicator.

597. (Cancelled)

598. (Cancelled)

599. (Currently Amended) A processing system, comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU) which includes an execution unit and a associated register file, the execution unit to process instructions of a plurality of instructions sets including a register-based instruction set and a stack-based instruction set;

a mechanism to maintain a an operand stack for the stack-based instruction set in the register file with at least one of an underflow and overflow mechanism, wherein the processing system has a first state in which the CPU processes instructions using the register-based instruction set without a virtual machine, a second state in which the CPU processes instructions using the register-based instruction set within the virtual machine, and a third state in which the CPU processes instructions using the stack-based instruction set within the virtual machine, the processing system being configured to perform a method, comprising:

switching to the first state due to a reset command ~~while in the third state~~ or after power-on;

thereafter switching to the second state;

processing instructions while in the second state; and

switching to the third state; ~~and~~

~~—upon receiving a reset command, switching from the third state to the first state.~~

600. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 599, wherein upon encountering an exception while in the third state, switching to the second state for further processing.

601. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 600, wherein upon encountering an exception while in the third state, the processing system switches to the second state for further processing of the exception.

602. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 600, wherein due to an exception while in the second state, the processing system switches from the second state to the first state.

603. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 600, wherein the processing system switches to the third state while in the virtual machine to execute the stack-based instruction set.

604. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 599, wherein the processing is done using register-based instructions for the first and second states.

605. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 604, wherein the processing system switches to the third state while in the virtual machine.

606. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 600 or claim 603, wherein an exception is generated for selected stack-based instructions.

607. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 599, wherein an error while in the third state switches the processing system to the second state.

608. (Cancelled)

609. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 603, wherein the stack-based instructions are virtual machine bytecodes.

610. (Original) The method of claim 506, further comprising maintaining a counter that counts how many operands are placed in the operand stack.

611. (Original) The method of claim 506, further comprising keeping track of the top of the operand stack.

612. (Original) The central processing unit of claim 559 or claim 585, further comprising a counter to count how many operands are in the operand stack.

613. (Original) The central processing unit of claim 559 or claim 585, further comprising a mechanism to keep track of the top of the operand stack.

614. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 506, claim 530, claim 540, or claim 551, wherein the stack-based instruction generating an exception is selected from the group consisting of tableswitch, lookupswitch, getstatic, putstatic, getfield, putfield, invokevirtual, invokespecial, invokestatic, invokeinterface, new, newarray, arraylength, athrow, checkcast, instanceof, monitorenter, monitorexit, breakpoint, anewarray, imdep1, and imdep2.

615. (Original) The central processing unit of claim 583, claim 592, or claim 600, wherein the stack-based instruction generating an exception is selected from the group consisting of tableswitch, lookupswitch, getstatic, putstatic, getfield, putfield, invokevirtual, invokespecial, invokestatic, invokeinterface, new, newarray, arraylength,

athrow, checkcast, instanceof, monitorenter, monitorexit, breakpoint, anewarray, imdep1, and imdep2.

616. (New) The method of claims 530, further comprising, prior to processing the output in the execution unit, processing the instructions of the stack-based instruction set in a hardware accelerator
617. (New) The method of claims 616, wherein processing the instructions of stack-based instruction set in the hardware accelerator comprising generating the exceptions, each in respect of a selected instruction of the stack-based instruction set.
618. (New) The central processing unit of claim 559, further comprising for the instructions of the stack-based instruction set, processing said instructions in a hardware accelerator to process instructions of the stack-back instruction set prior to the processing of said instructions in the execution unit.
619. (New) The central processing unit of claim 618, wherein the hardware accelerator generates the exceptions.
620. (New) The central processing unit of claim 583, further comprising for the instructions of the stack-based instruction set, processing said instructions in

a hardware accelerator to process instructions of the stack-back instruction set prior to the processing of said instructions in the execution unit.

621. (New) The central processing unit of claim 620, wherein the hardware accelerator generates the exceptions.
622. (New) The central processing unit of claim 593, further comprising for the instructions of the stack-based instruction set, processing said instructions in a hardware accelerator to process instructions of the stack-back instruction set prior to the processing of said instructions in the execution unit.
623. (New) The central processing unit of claim 622, further comprising for the instructions of the stack-based instruction set, processing said instructions in a hardware accelerator to process instructions of the stack-back instruction set prior to the processing of said instructions in the execution unit.
624. (New) The processing system unit of claim 599, further comprising for the instructions of the stack-based instruction set, processing said instructions in a hardware accelerator to process instructions of the stack-back instruction set prior to the processing of said instructions in the execution unit.
625. (New) The processing system unit of claim 624, further comprising for the instructions of the stack-based instruction set, processing said instructions in

a hardware accelerator to process instructions of the stack-back instruction set prior to the processing of said instructions in the execution unit.